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Reclamation District No. 1607

VAN SICKLE ISLAND-SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

February 3, 2006

Colonel Ronald N. Light
District Engineer
Sacramento District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Colonel Light:

This letter conveys Reclamation District 1607's (District) intent to participate in feasibility studies and/or other actions in the development of the Van Sickle Island Levee Stability Project as the non-Federal sponsor consistent with the CALFED Bay-Delta Authorization Act (Public Law 108-361).

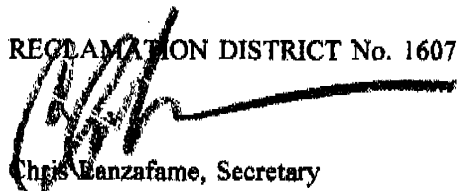
The District understands that the type, cost, and scope of actions will be determined and specified later if selected for development and/or implementation pursuant to the Act. The District also understands that if our project is approved for implementation, we will be responsible for sharing the cost of planning, designing, and implementation of the project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and accomplishing operation and maintenance of the project.

Please note that this letter of intent is not an obligation of funds. We look forward to working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State of California, and other pertinent CALFED agencies and stakeholders on this important project.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at 925/432-4457 or Gilbert Cosio, MBK Engineers, at 916/456-4400.

Sincerely,

RECLAMATION DISTRICT No. 1607



Chris Lanzafame, Secretary

GC/pp
4230.1/RONALD LIGHT LEVEE REHAB 02.03.06.DOC

P.O.Box 350 Pittsburg, CA 94565 phone: 925-432-4757 fax: 925-432-4887

Name: Van Sickle Island Levee Stability Project;

Purpose: The purpose of the project is to investigate levee stability alternatives for Van Sickle Island levee to the Suisun Marsh Resource Conservation District (SRCD) standard.

Location: The project is located on Van Sickle Island in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Solano County. Van Sickle Island is approximately 2,362 acres and is protected by 9.7 miles of levees on the Montezuma Slough, Roaring River, and Suisun Bay.

Problems: Van Sickle Island has been working toward rehabilitating their levee to the SRCD standard. This standard is geometric and does not provide guidance for areas with weak foundation or exposure to wind and wave fetch. A one mile stretch of the levee along Suisun Bay has experienced subsidence problem and instability from wind and wave action from Suisun Bay. Despite annual maintenance, the area is semi-annually in a flood fight situation. Van Sickle Island has been working with DWR to rehabilitate its levee and has negotiated offsite mitigation for a levee footprint expansion.

Opportunities: This project provides a benefit to the people of the State. Levee integrity on Van Sickle Island is critical due to its key location in the Delta. The westernmost Delta islands need to be protected from flooding to prevent saltwater intrusion and to protect the quality of drinking water exported from the Delta. Failure of the levee will also impact the integrity of Montezuma Slough Salinity Control Structure, a key feature of the State Water Project.

The project design, if successful, would provide design guidance for other levees in the Suisun Marsh and Bay-Delta. Long term, the design can reduce costs of levee maintenance.

Van Sickle Island provides habitat to numerous waterfowl, birds, and terrestrial animals. The continued rehabilitation of the Van Sickle Island levees will protect this habitat and benefit these species.

Project Description: The project would consist of exploratory geotechnical evaluation to determine existing levels of stability and provide design criteria for improvement of the levee system to meet the SRCD requirements. The second phase of the project would be to design and construct these improvements to rehabilitate one mile of Reclamation District No. 1607 to the SRCD standards. A 20-30 foot bench on the waterside slope would be incorporated into the levee cross section for habitat enhancement. The waterside bench could be planted with native vegetation to create approximately an acre of habitat. A landside berm would also be incorporated into the design to counterbalance weight on the levee section. It is estimated that 30,000 cubic yards of material would be required for the levee cross-section. Project cost is estimated at \$750,000.

Statement of Willingness and Ability to Cost Share: See attached letter.

Point of Contact: Gilbert Cosio, Jr,
MBK Engineers
2450 Alhambra Blvd 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95817
Phone: 916/456-4400
Fax: 916/456-0253
Email: Cosio@mbkengineers.com

Scoping & Screening Information:

- In your opinion, what is the urgency for your proposed project? Is there an imminent threat to life, property, critical habitat, or other prominent resource?

The project area is annually threatened by flooding, which in turn threatens the interior and Roaring River project..

- Would there be a change in the magnitude, frequency, or duration of flood flows in other areas of the levee system as a result of the potential project?

There would not be a change in magnitude, frequency, or duration of flood flows as a result of this project. The project increases the reliability of the levee system on Van Sickle Island and would not change the flow regime in the river.

- What would the proposed project do to address flooding, ecosystem, water supply and quality, and other problems and needs locally and regionally?

The proposed project would reduce the risk of flooding on Van Sickle Island. This would protect the habitat of the endangered Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse. The project would also protect water quality at the Montezuma Slough Salinity Structure.

- Are there non-structural or other ways to address flooding, ecosystem, water supply and quality, and other problems in the potential project area; and if so, what are they?

There are no non-structural alternatives to address the waterside slope instability.

- Who and/or what would benefit from the potential project?

Habitat for Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse and other marsh foragers will benefit. Avian Wetland habitat is protected. State Water Project will benefit.

- What is the likely Federal, State and local agency support?

It is anticipated that State support would come from the Department of Water Resources Delta Levee Subventions Program and local support from Reclamation District No. 1607.

4. All weather road upgrade.

Installing base rock and raising the levee crown. The levee is accessible around the entire island. Providing a base rock road will greatly increase the districts ability to maintain and patrol the levee in inclement weather conditions.

All of these projects are consistent with the provisions of Public law 108-361 Water Supply, Reliability and Environmental Improvement Act. Specifically: Sec 103 Bay Delta Program, Paragraph (f) Description of Activities Under new and Expanded Authorization, Section (3) Levee Stability, Item (D) Projects Items:

- (i) Reconstruct levees to Base level of protection
- (ii) Enhance the stability of levees of special concerns
- (vi) Reconstruct delta levees using dredged materials

Enclosed is a map of the island with the district stationing highlighting the areas described above. Additional information regarding approximate quantities and estimated costs are also included. Enclosed also is a letter from Paul Harper, The BIMID district manager stating the district Notice to cost share as outlined in the program parameters.

Thank you for the opportunity to potentially participate in the program.

Green Mountain Engineering.



Dominick Gulli PE 50887, PLS 7244

Attach: Preliminary Construction Estimate dated 1/28/06
11 x 17 Drawings of upgrade scenarios.

CC: BIMID
Hultgren Tillis Engineers

- Are there any known challenges or obstacles that may delay rapid development and implementation of your potential project?

There are no known challenges or obstacles that would delay rapid development and implementation of the project. Van Sickle Island has landowners which are committed to implementing projects that would reduce the flood risk on the island.

- Is your agency ready, willing, and able to serve as a non-Federal sponsor for this potential project, and able to provide required cost-sharing and other assurances?

Reclamation District No. 1607 is willing to serve as the non-Federal sponsor for any potential projects on the island that would reduce the flood risk.